

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated August 24, 2004. Claims 1-39 are pending in the application. In the Office action, claims 1-4, 6-8, 16-19, 26, 27, 29-31, 36, 38 and 39 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,999,253 to Lewis. Claims 5 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis. Claims 9-15, 20-25, 32-35, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,138,753 to Wood.

Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion that any claims are anticipated by or obvious over Lewis, or obvious over Lewis in view of Wood. This is because neither Lewis nor Wood shows a watercraft having deck substantially covering a hull, and a deck modification module removably attached to the deck. However, the Examiner indicated via teleconference on November 9, 2004 that the amendments made herein place all claims in condition for allowance. Applicants and applicants' attorney thank the Examiner for his time during the teleconference, and amend the claims accordingly.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

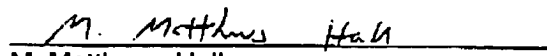
CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent Office, Attention: Examiner Lars A. Olson, Group Art Unit 3617, to facsimile number: (703) 872-9308 on November 9, 2004.


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Respectfully submitted,

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